

IN THE DRAWINGS

The attached sheet of drawings includes changes to Figure 4. This sheet, which includes Figure 4, replaces the original sheet including Figure 4.

Attachment: Replacement Sheet

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application, in view of the present Amendment and in light of the following discussion, is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-18 are currently pending. The present Amendment amends Claims 1, 3, 5, and 16. The amendments to the claims are supported by the originally filed specification, for example at page 27, line 20 to page 28, line 5, and at page 33, line 23 to page 34, line 15, and do not add new matter.

In the outstanding Office Action, the drawings were objected to; and Claims 1, 2, 16, and 17 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,222,834 to Kondo (hereinafter "Kondo").

Claims 3-15 and 18 were indicated as allowable if rewritten in independent form. The indication of allowable subject matter is acknowledged with appreciation. However, it is respectfully submitted that since Claims 1 and 2, from which Claims 3-15 depend, and Claims 16 and 17, from which Claim 18 depends, define patentable subject matter, Claims 3-15 and 18 are maintained in dependent form at the present time.

The Applicants wish to thank Examiner Ghebretinsae for the interview granted Applicants' representatives on November 16, 2006, at which time the outstanding rejection of independent Claim 1 was discussed in view of the applied references. In light of the discussion during the interview, independent Claims 1, 3, 5, and 16 are amended, as discussed below.

Turning now to the objection to the drawings, Figure 4 is amended to include the label "Related Art." Therefore, it is respectfully requested that the objection to the drawings be withdrawn.

Turning now to the rejection of Claims 1, 2, 16, and 17 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Kondo, that rejection is respectfully traversed.

Briefly recapitulating, amended Claim 1 recites a timing correcting device, comprising: a path detecting unit configured to detect a plurality of path candidates to be tracked from a reception signal, and outputting a path timing, a detection correlation value, and stability information generated from multiple detection correlation values corresponding to each path candidate as a result; a plurality of decision reference generating units that are individually allocated with the result of the path detecting unit, configured to generate a predetermined decision standard that is necessary for selecting an optimum path timing from among the timings of the path candidates, based on the allocated information; an optimum-path selecting unit configured to select an optimum path timing that should be tracked from among the timings of the path candidates, based on the result of the path detecting unit and the predetermined decision standard, wherein the plurality of path candidates are selected within a search window that is matched with the reference timing; a phase-difference calculating unit configured to compare a predetermined reception reference timing given from the outside with the optimum path timing, and calculates a phase difference between the two timings; and a timing correcting unit configured to correct the reception reference timing by controlling a clock based on the phase difference.

Turning now to the applied reference, Kondo discloses a spread spectrum communication receiver. Specifically, Kondo discloses a spread spectrum communication receiver including a spread code generating section, a receiver, a searcher, a tracking section, a path capturing/holding section, a correlation demodulation path selection section, a rake section, and a decoder section.¹ Kondo discloses a spread section 120 that correlates the demodulation signal output from the receiver 110 and the spread code generated by a spread code generating section 180 to detect correlation peaks in a search range, thereby obtaining a

¹ See Kondo, at the Abstract.

plurality of search paths having high correlation levels.² Therefore, in the spread spectrum communication receiver disclosed in Kondo, each path is assigned a **single** correlation value, and the path with the highest correlation value is selected. Amended Claim 1 recites a path detecting unit configured to output “stability information generated from **multiple** detection correlation values corresponding to each path candidate.” In contrast, Kondo discloses a spread section 120 that only outputs a **single** correlation value for each search path, and does not teach or suggest outputting stability information for each path candidate. Therefore, the spread section 120 disclosed in Kondo is not “a path detecting unit” as recited in amended Claim 1.

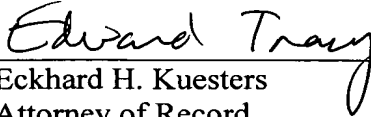
Thus, it is respectfully submitted that Kondo does not teach or suggest every element recited in amended Claim 1. Specifically, Kondo does not teach or suggest “a path detecting unit configured to detect a plurality of path candidates to be tracked from a reception signal, and outputting a path timing, a detection correlation value, and stability information generated from **multiple** detection correlation values corresponding to each path candidate as a result” as recited in amended Claim 1. Thus, it is respectfully requested that the rejection of Claim 1, and Claim 2 which depends therefrom, as unpatentable over Kondo be withdrawn. Further, as amended independent Claim 16 contains analogous language to amended Claim 1, it is respectfully requested that the rejection of Claim 16, and Claim 17 which depends therefrom, as unpatentable over Kondo be withdrawn.

² See Kondo, at column 3, lines 6-10.

Consequently, in view of the present Amendment, no further issues are believed to be outstanding in the present application, and the present application is believed to be in condition for formal Allowance. A Notice of Allowance is earnestly solicited.

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